

## Media Release

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**Tom Eaves, President & CEO of Star Software Systems,  
Is Georgia's 2005 Small Business Person of the Year**  
*--Company Ranked 142<sup>nd</sup> on the "INC 500" list of Fast-Growing Firms--*

Tom Eaves, whose information technology firm reached sales of \$5 million in only six years, has been selected the 2005 Small Business Person of the Year in Georgia by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Eaves received his SBA award yesterday from Terri L. Denison, SBA Georgia District Director, at an Atlanta luncheon hosted by the Georgia Lenders Quality Circle. He was nominated for his statewide award by the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center in Macon.

Eaves' company is focused on several product areas including information technology, software engineering, government contracting and a new web-based school management system.



Tom Eaves receives his Small Business award from Terri Denison, SBA Georgia District Director.

Raised in Union Hill, Louisiana, Eaves started his company, Star Software Systems Corporation in Lafayette where it was based until he moved his corporate offices to Warner Robins, Georgia in 2000. At first, Star Software had a small office in Georgia Tech's Advanced Technology Center in Warner Robins, home to the Air Force's huge Air Logistics Center.

In 2002, Eaves moved his headquarters to a vacant downtown bank building that he purchased from the City of Warner Robins. A year later, Eaves secured an SBA 504 Economic Development Loan to fund a 15,000 square-foot Technology Building behind his current headquarters office. The new facility will open in June with about 100 new employees expected to be added over the next year and a half to the current payroll of 75.

Prior to obtaining his 504 Loan, Eaves worked with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in Macon on the company's financial projection and a business plan that was used in

negotiations on his loan with Security Bank of Houston County and the Development Corporation of Middle Georgia, an SBA Certified Development Company.

Looking to the future, Star Software says it is teaming with a large prime contractor on the Design Engineering Support Program II, a federal contract worth an estimated \$1.9 billion over five years. The company is also bidding on \$15 million in additional contracts at the Air Logistics Center.

Eaves, who is legally blind, was accepted into the SBA's 8(a) Program in 1992. The program helps develop small businesses owned by individuals who are socially and economically disadvantaged. Star Software also received a Phase I Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) grant last year from the National Science Foundation. The SBIR grant, administered by the SBA, is to study the use of automated tools and descriptive keywords for analyzing and searching for images in satellite photography.

Eaves received a B.S. Degree in Computer Science in 1983 from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He attended graduate school in computer science at the Center for Advanced Computer Studies at the University of Louisiana.

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